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PETITION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT TO REQUIRE PRODUCT SERVICE LIFESPAN DISCLOSURE AND GUARANTEED SPARE-PART AVAILABILITY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Propose EU legislation requiring producers of goods for which replacement parts may be needed to (1) declare a designed product lifespan, (2) publicly commit to a minimum duration for supplying genuine replacement parts, and (3) register these declarations in a centralized UPC/product database prior to sale. The law will set minimum spare-part supply periods by product class and price band, require financial guarantees for non-compliance, and establish a democratic multi-stakeholder forum to set and review standards.

KEY DEFINITIONS

- **Designed product lifespan:** the period (years) for which the producer designs the product to be serviceable under normal use and maintenance.
- **Genuine replacement part:** any part supplied by the producer or its authorized licensee that is necessary to restore intended functionality.
- **Product class:** grouping by function and price band for regulatory calibration (e.g., low-cost consumer electronics, tools machinery and other equipment, high-cost consumer electronics, tools machinery and other equipment, all household appliances and fixtures, furniture's and serviceable accessories, non-motorized transportation vehicles, motorized passenger vehicles, etc.)



MANDATORY PRODUCER OBLIGATIONS

1. Lifespan disclosure

- a. Producers must state the product's designed lifespan on packaging, invoices and in the centralized UPC database.

2. Spare-part availability commitment

- a. Producers must publish a guaranteed minimum period for supplying all genuine replacement parts for each product (or product model) in the UPC database.

3. Pre-sale transparency

- a. Prior to purchase, consumers must be able to access the product's designed lifespan and spare-part availability through the UPC/product database and at point of sale.

4. Financial assurance

- a. Producers must hold an insurance policy, escrow, or cash bond sized by expected replacement-part liability to cover consumer claims and obligations in case of failure to supply parts.

5. Participation in standards setting

- a. Producers participate in product-class working groups that, together with public consumer protection agencies and independent NGOs, set minimum supply durations and review them regularly.

REGULATORY CALIBRATION AND GOVERNANCE

- **Minimum supply durations:** The European Parliament will set baseline minimum spare-part supply periods per product class and price band; Member States may adopt stricter levels.
- **Central UPC database:** Expand the existing UPC framework to include lifespan and spare-part commitments, covering high-value items such as vehicles.
- **Democratic forum:** Create a standing multi-stakeholder forum (producers, governmental consumer protection bodies, independent consumer NGOs, repair sector and retailer representatives) to recommend class boundaries, durations, and technical exceptions.
- **Enforcement:** National consumer authorities enforce compliance; failure to provide parts triggers financial guarantee payout, fines, and public listing of non-compliant producers.



REMEDIES AND ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS

- **Compulsory payouts:** Insurance/escrow pays verified claims where producers fail to supply required parts within the committed timeframe.
- **Corrective measures:** Mandatory corrective plans, product recalls where appropriate, and publication of remedial actions.
- **Sanctions:** Administrative fines calibrated to company size and market impact; repeat offenders subject to higher penalties and temporary market restrictions.
- **Right to repair:** Ensure authorized independent repairers can obtain parts at fair, non-discriminatory terms to preserve competition in repair services.

BENEFITS TO STAKEHOLDERS

- Consumers
 - **Greater transparency** when buying, enabling informed lifetime cost calculations and more sustainable purchasing choices.
 - **Lower long-term costs** through reparability instead of replacement and reduced premature obsolescence.
- Producers
 - **Market differentiation** for durable, repairable products and clearer lifecycle planning for design and inventory.
 - **Predictable regulatory environment** and risk-sharing via standardized financial assurance mechanisms.
- Distributors and Retailers
 - **Reduced return and waste handling costs** as products remain serviceable longer and customer trust improves.
 - **Upsell opportunities** for extended support, maintenance packages, and certified refurbishment services.
- Repair and Aftermarket Sectors
 - **Expanded business** through guaranteed parts availability and clearer access rules for independent repairers.
- European Union economy and environment



- **Resource efficiency and circular economy growth** by extending product service life, lowering raw-material demand and reducing waste management costs.
- **Job creation** in repair, remanufacturing, refurbishment and logistics for spare parts.
- **Reduced trade imbalances** from lower import demand for new consumer goods over time and increased intra-EU aftermarket activity.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE (RECOMMENDED)

1. **Year 0–1:** Legislative adoption of framework and baseline minimums; define product classes and price bands.
2. **Year 1–2:** Expand UPC database to accept lifespan and spare-part entries; pilot program for selected product classes (e.g., appliances, consumer electronics, vehicles).
3. **Year 2–4:** Full roll-out across all product classes; establish enforcement and financial assurance regimes.

CALL TO ACTION

Adopt EU legislation requiring lifespan disclosure and guaranteed spare-part supply commitments recorded in the UPC database, accompanied by standardized financial guarantees and a permanent inclusive multi-producer democratic forum to ensure standard agreement as well as implementation, enforcement, and periodic review should be established with regards for the improvement of legislatures for the rights and liberties of the European consumers.

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